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COR-0471

Copy *X* of 3.

3 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR : Advanced Research Projects Agency

Attention: Mr. Lawrence P. Gise

SUBJECT : "Recovery Probabilities" (LMSD-445225,  
dated 13 May 1959)

1. In response to a request from your office there is attached a report by Lockheed, the prime contractor for CORONA, which pertains to the probability of the loss of either the camera or the cassette containing the film. Involved also is destruction, each time, of the vehicle which carries the camera. The various data as well as the several types of destruct systems relative to the problem of preventing inadvertent loss in denied territory were reviewed with Lockheed CORONA-cleared project personnel by representatives of this Agency on 28 May. In attendance also were cognizant AFBMD personnel.

2. Your concern with regard to inadvertent landing of any of the several components is shared here and Lockheed was requested to propose recommendations and designs of various destruct systems which might be used to decrease the probability of loss in denied territory. It was pointed out to Lockheed that the several destruct systems must have a very high reliability without increasing chances of malfunction or of increasing the probability of loss of the entire mission due to complexities added to the basic CORONA system. The prime purpose of developing and continuing the CORONA project is the gathering of strategic intelligence and its safe return to U. S. hands. Any system developed as a security measure must not degrade vehicle performance or inherent vehicle and camera system reliability beyond acceptable limits.

3. Also of prime concern are the safety factors which must be built into the capsule destruct system since if it is recovered, it must be then disarmed at the time the film is removed.

NOTICE

This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, USC, Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

NRO review(s)  
completed.

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4. Estimates and designs are expected here approximately 15 June. Since it is felt that this Agency's and ARPA's objectives are the same, we would hope to meet with you after the receipt of the Lockheed report.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

BY:

WILLIAM BURKE  
Colonel, USAF

Attachment:

Copy E-40 (69 pp) of subj doc  
(w/copy 1 only)

DPD-DD/P:WBurke/hh

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